

2005 Report of Accomplishments

Stevens County Conservation District

Natural Resource Improvements Summary:

- SCCD sold 124,656 tree seedlings to 339 landowners.
- Sponsored three streambank stabilization projects reinforcing over 1600 feet of streambank.
- Completed two riparian protection projects; one on the Little Pend Oreille River and one involved a shoreline protection project for a creek within the Colville City limits—the SCCD's first urban project.
- Designed and implemented seven off-channel watering projects protecting over 22,000 lineal feet of streambank.
- Provided technical assistance for a livestock relocation project. This project relocated over 140 cow-calf pairs from their pasture on the Colville River flood plain to a closed forest upland basin.



Mission of the Stevens County Conservation District:

To promote the wise use of the renewable natural resources within Stevens County Conservation District.

Water Quality Implementation:

- Sponsored off-channel watering projects under the Conservation Commission water quality grant. As a result of the projects, 22 watering stations were developed, approximately 8,200 feet of pipeline laid, and 3,100 feet of fence built. The completed projects provided off-channel watering for approximately 900 head of livestock and protected over 22,000 lineal feet of streambank.
- The District conducted water quality testing within Water Resource Inventory Area 59 (WRIA 59) resulting in the analysis of 1,910 individual samples.
- The District contracted with Dr. Dan Kurtak to perform benthic macro-invertebrate sampling/analysis on Mill Creek. Dr. Kurtak's reports provided valuable information concerning the water quality and biological characteristics of the stream.

Basic Funding Combined with Local Funding:

- The basic funding provided by the Conservation Commission and local funding provided by the Stevens County Commissioners was utilized to provide technical support for the county/landowners not covered by grant funding.

Dairy:

- The District utilized Conservation Commission grant funding to update the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans (DNMPs) for all 13 dairies in Stevens County. All dairies are certified and current on their soil and nutrient testing/analysis required by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Community Collaboration and Coordination:

- The District's Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisor Elections were held in conjunction with the Stevens County Weed Board with over 70 landowners in attendance.
- Provided technical assistance for the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association and Farm Bureau by participating in several of their meetings, providing updates for the new AFO/CAFO regulations, and outlined cost-share opportunities for implementation of conservation BMP's.
- Member of the Colville River Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Advisory Group which successfully completed the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) in June 2005.
- Participated in the review and final comments of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (Phase III) which was adopted by the Stevens County Commissioners in December 2004. Advisory member of the WRIA 59 Phase IV Planning Unit.
- Member of the NRCS Local Working Group which awarded \$928,448 for EQIP projects in the Tri-County area (Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties)
- The District completed its 11th year of working with Northwest Alloys, Inc. and the Washington Department of Ecology in the clean-up efforts at the magnesium L-Bar site south of Chewelah. The District also has been working with Northwest Alloys, Inc. for over four years at the Addy Plant site conducting water quality monitoring.

Information and Education:

- Completed the SCCD's Long Range Plan and approved in August 2004.
- Conducted the Annual Conservation Tour which highlighted both new and old projects to show the longevity of conservation practices when properly implemented.
- Held Watershed Workshops on bank stabilization techniques and proper septic system operation/maintenance.
- Organized the Pingston Creek Watershed Tour and subsequently published the Pingston Creek Watershed Management Plan and Water Quality Summary Report.
- Coordinated the Annual 7th District Legislator's Meeting at Chewelah Peak Learning Center.
- Gave numerous presentations for community organizations utilizing GIS generated water quality data/maps.
- Hosted land judging contest attended by 229 students from eight schools, forestry contest attended by 42 students from four schools, the state forestry contest attended by 45 students from six schools, and helped with 6th Grade Conservation Days held in two locations and attended by 418 students from 14 schools.
- Conducted five water quality workshops with the Chewelah School District and one joint workshop with the Chewelah Peak Learning Center and students from Eastern Washington University.
- Coordinated a macroinvertebrate sampling exercise in Mill Creek for Home School students.
- Participated in a county 4-H water quality activity with approximately 75 students and parents.
- Co-Sponsored with WSU the 1st Annual Stevens County Big Tree Contest at the NE Washington Fair which resulted in a great education project and generated over \$3,800 in donations for the local FFA programs.
- The District newsletter was distributed two times to the SCCD's mailing list (~3,000) and once to all residential addresses and P.O. boxes in the county (over 19,000). The blanket county-wide distribution enhanced the SCCD's public awareness and resulted in a record year for tree sales and the number of landowner contacts for water quality cost-share projects.

Board Of Supervisors:

- Tom McKern, Chairman
- Bob Playfair, Vice-Chairman
- Margaret Tokach, Treasurer (passed away on July 14, 2005 – she will be greatly missed by the District and the Stevens County community)
- Pete Guglielmino, Member
- Andy Kroiss, Member

Staff:

- 3 full time staff
- 4 part-time staff

** Example of an SCCD off-channel livestock watering project installed without fencing. Studies indicate livestock drink from an off-stream watering device over 90% of the time which substantially improves water quality post implementation without the need for exclusionary fencing (Sheffield et al. 1997).*



Approved at August 11, 2005 Board Meeting:

Chairman

Date